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11 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
12 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

14 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CASE NO. 1:22-CR-207 JLT

15 Plaintiff,

UNITED STATES MEMORANDUM AND  
PROFFER IN SUPPORT OF PRETRIAL  
DETENTION

16 v.

17 J. DESHAWN TORRENCE,

DATE: August 10, 2022

18 Defendant.

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

COURT: Hon. Erica P. Grosjean

24 **UNITED STATES MEMORANDUM AND PROFFER IN SUPPORT OF PRETRIAL  
DETENTION**

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20  
21 I. **INTRODUCTION**

22 The United States of America, through its attorneys, has respectfully moved this Court to issue  
23 an Order detaining J. DESHAWN TORRENCE pending trial, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3142(a)(4),  
24 3142(f)(1)(A) and (B), and 3142(g). The defendant, a former police officer with the Sanger Police  
25 Department, is charged with multiple crimes of violence and he faces life in prison for several of the  
26 sexual assaults he committed during the course of his duties as a law enforcement officer. Detention is  
27 necessary because there is no condition or combination of conditions that will reasonably assure the  
28 appearance of the defendant and the safety of the community.

As set forth in this memorandum, there is clear and convincing evidence that the defendant engaged in a pattern of sexual assault throughout his employ at the Sanger Police Department. He preyed on the vulnerabilities of the women he encountered, be they victims of domestic violence, employees of the convenience store he frequented while on duty, or individuals suspected of driving under the influence. He terrorized many of them for months on end, threatening to arrest loved ones or otherwise making them live in fear of him, and sexually assaulting without consequence. The defendant was tasked with upholding the Constitution and keeping the City of Sanger safe. Instead he violated his oath and the victims' constitutional rights with impunity, and he rendered the streets he patrolled unsafe due to his own predatory conduct. The United States therefore seeks to detain the defendant pending trial.

## II. BACKGROUND

On July 28, 2022, the Grand Jury returned an indictment under seal charging the defendant with ten counts of violating 18 U.S.C. § 242, Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law, for willfully depriving four different women, whom he encountered in his capacity as a police officer, of their Constitutional right to bodily integrity by sexually assaulting them. Four of the counts charge that the defendant's conduct included either aggravated sexual abuse or attempted aggravated sexual abuse, and therefore each of those counts carries a maximum penalty of up to life in prison. Another count charges that the defendant's conduct resulted in bodily injury and that count carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.<sup>1</sup> The five remaining counts each carry a maximum of one year in prison.<sup>2</sup>

On Friday, August 5, 2022, after the indictment was unsealed and when the defendant was

<sup>1</sup> Count One also charges that the defendant conducted resulted in bodily injury, but it also charges that the conduct included aggravated sexual abuse.

<sup>2</sup> As described below, two of the misdemeanor counts charge the defendant with directing the victim to remove her clothes without a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Two other misdemeanor counts charge the defendant with making the victim touch his penis in one count, and putting his mouth on her breast in the other count, all without her consent. The fifth misdemeanor count charges the defendant with coercing the victim to perform oral sex on one or more occasions. Although these are all misdemeanors because the evidence does not establish any of the statutory enhancements set out in 18 U.S.C. § 242, it should be noted that Congress recently rectified the penalty structure for civil rights offenses involving sexual misconduct, when it enacted 18 U.S.C. § 250 as part of the 2022 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Although inapplicable here because the statute goes into effect on October 1, 2022, it is nonetheless instructive as to the gravity of the crimes charged to note what the penalties would otherwise be as of October 1, i.e. the count charging coerced oral sex would be punishable up to life in prison, and the two counts involving unwanted touching would each be punishable up to 10 years in prison.

1 arraigned, the United States moved that the defendant be detained, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(A)  
2 and (B). The defendant is charged with multiple crimes of violence, particularly where the aggravated  
3 sexual abuse and attempted aggravated sexual abuse enhancements are alleged, and he faces life in  
4 prison on those four counts. There is no condition or combination of conditions to reasonably assure the  
5 safety of any person or the community, and there this Court can and should continue to detain the  
6 defendant pending trial.

7           **III. FACTUAL PROFFER OF THE EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CHARGES**

8           At a detention hearing, the United States may present evidence by way of a proffer. 19 U.S.C. §  
9 3142(f); *United States v. Winsor*, 785 F.2d 755, 756 (9th Cir. 1996); *United States v. Cabrera-Ortigoza*,  
10 196 F.R.D. 571, 574 (S.D. Cal. 2000). The United States therefore proffers the following evidence as set  
11 forth below and throughout this memorandum.

12           **A. The Initiation of the Federal Investigation**

13           The defendant's sexual misconduct came to light because, as detailed below, in June 2021, a  
14 woman (listed as B.H. in Counts Nine and Ten in the Indictment) whom the defendant detained for  
15 suspicion of driving under the influence reported that he forced her to touch his penis, and then put his  
16 mouth on her breasts without her consent. The Sanger Police Department (SPD) referred the matter to  
17 the Fresno County Sheriff's Office (FSO) for investigation, and soon thereafter, FSO arrested the  
18 defendant. In so doing, via a news conference, FSO encouraged anyone with additional information to  
19 come forward. As a result, additional victims felt safe to come forward, hoping that they might finally  
20 be believed, fearing in the past that no one would take their word over that of a law enforcement officer.  
21 Because several of the sexual assaults that these "new" victims alleged occurred outside of California's  
22 statute of limitations, the state authorities deferred to federal authorities and the investigation continued.

23           The indictment charges the defendant with the sexual assaults of three women in addition to his  
24 sexual assaults of B.H. Nonetheless, the federal investigation remains ongoing because the United  
25 States is aware of several additional allegations that the defendant committed various forms of sexual  
26 assault in his capacity as a police officer and at least one sexual assault that he committed in his personal  
27 capacity.

28           For each victim listed in the indictment, the United States developed evidence that each woman

1 reported her sexual assaults to family, friends, an attorney – and in one case, SPD itself – well before  
2 FSO ever held its June 2021 news conference, and close in time to when the defendant’s misconduct  
3 occurred. These “early disclosures” are admissible at trial pursuant to Fed. Rule. Evid. 801(d)(1)(B) to  
4 rebut a defense of recent fabrication or improper motive. They corroborate the victim’ accounts, and  
5 they foreclose any defense that these women simply “jumped on the bandwagon” when FSO announced  
6 the defendant’s arrest. Moreover, these victims gain nothing by coming forward other than to see their  
7 perpetrator held to account.

8 As set forth below, the victims’ accounts that corroborate one another, their early disclosures,  
9 and the fact that each victim neither knew each other at the time they were assaulted nor at the time the  
10 defendant’s misconduct came to light, establish that there is little doubt (and certainly no reasonable  
11 doubt) of the defendant’s guilt. In fact, defendant’s overwhelming guilt and his danger to the  
12 community are illustrated by his number of victims and pattern of conduct.

13       **B.     The Victims in the Indictment**

14       The evidence that forms the basis of the indictment is listed below in chronological order, with  
15 the oldest assault first, consistent with how the counts are listed in the indictment. The most recent  
16 allegation, listed last, is what prompted the federal investigation, as noted above.

17       1.     **M.C.G. (Counts One, Two, Three, and Four)**

18       The defendant first sexually assaulted M.C.G., now 71-years old, in the late summer or fall of  
19 2017, but fearing she would not be believed, she did not report him to SPD, as the defendant was an  
20 SPD officer himself. She did, however, immediately after he first raped her, contact an attorney she  
21 knew, hoping to see what recourse she might have. That attorney, through a paralegal, told her that he  
22 could not prove the allegations. Indeed, that attorney declined to meet with M.C.G., and he sent an  
23 email to that paralegal in 2017 in which he (jokingly) wrote “There is no way I’m going to be able to  
24 prove this case...but makes for a great scene in an erotic movie! LOL.”<sup>3</sup>

25       As a result, M.C.G. did not tell anyone else about the repeated sexual assaults that the defendant

26

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27       <sup>3</sup> This one sentence is illustrative of what the defendant banked on to get away with his crimes,  
28 and it is illustrative of why sexual assault victims – and these victims in particular – were reluctant to  
come forward, thinking they would not be believed.

1 made her endure, and she ultimately moved from Sanger. That changed in April 2022, during a visit to  
2 Sanger, when she learned about the defendant's aforementioned arrest by the FSO. That prompted  
3 M.C.G. to muster the courage to call SPD and report the defendant's misconduct that had begun almost  
4 five years earlier. In so reporting, M.C.G.'s first concern was to confirm that the defendant no longer  
5 worked at SPD. When the SPD officer to whom she was speaking confirmed that, she hesitated and then  
6 flatly stated, "He raped me."

7 M.C.G. explained that she first encountered the defendant while sitting in her car, outside of her  
8 house. She had driven home after having a few drinks. She parked across the street from her house,  
9 and, as she explained, she was listening to music and fell asleep. She woke up to the defendant  
10 knocking on her window, and telling her that he was going to arrest her for driving under the influence.  
11 She told him that she lived across the street. He then took her license and walked away. Upon returning,  
12 he told her that he would not arrest her but that he would walk her to her house.

13 As he did so, he asked if she was wearing "panties" under her long dress. She thought it was  
14 weird that he could tell that she was not, but she answered truthfully. When they arrived at the gate to  
15 her property, she told him that he could leave. He insisted on accompanying her into her residence, and  
16 followed her inside. The defendant began looking around the house and went toward the kitchen, which  
17 was being renovated at the time and was full of tools and building materials. In an effort to get him to  
18 leave, M.C.G. thanked the defendant. But instead of leaving, he grabbed her shoulders, forcing her into  
19 the kitchen, and toward the stove, which was still in a box.

20 At that point, she froze because she knew the defendant was going to rape her. He then pushed  
21 her into the stove box, lifted the back of her dress, and forcefully penetrated her vagina with his penis.  
22 She described feeling vaginal pain because she had not had sex in some time. After a few thrusts, he  
23 then turned her around, pushed her down from her shoulders to a squatting position, and then told her to,  
24 "Suck it." She told him that she "[does] not do oral sex," but the defendant angrily told her to "just suck  
25 it." Fearing for her physical safety and aware that he was an officer with a gun, she complied. M.C.G.  
26 gagged until he ejaculated. At that point, he got angry that she might spit out his semen, and ordered her  
27 to swallow it, telling her that that he did not want there to be any evidence. As he was about to leave, he  
28 told M.C.G., "For an old bitch you got a really nice young body." He then told her that he would keep in

1 touch. And he did.

2 For almost two and a half years until about January 2020, the defendant would park on her  
3 corner at random, as if to let her know he was there, a common intimidation tactic that he would employ  
4 with many of his victims. He would call her phone, and sporadically show up at her house when he  
5 knew that neither her son nor her eventual husband was home. He would demand that she perform oral  
6 sex, threatening to arrest her or her son for any reason of his choosing. Sometimes weeks would go by  
7 and she thought she was safe, but he would show up again. As she succinctly explained, the defendant  
8 used his power to intimidate her into submission—and she was scared to death of him.

9 The defendant stopped sexually assaulting M.C.G. because in January 2020, she lied and told  
10 him that she and her husband were going to a fundraiser for the Fresno Police Chief, claiming that her  
11 husband was friends with him. That seemed to scare him off, and he stopped bothering her (and  
12 sexually assaulting her) until about a year later in January 2021.

13 In the interim, M.C.G. had moved out of her house and into an apartment due to her husband's  
14 illness. He died on January 10, 2021, and M.C.G. would often drive by her old house that held fond  
15 memories. On one occasion shortly after her husband's death, the defendant saw her in her car and  
16 knocked on the window, commenting that he had not seen her in a while. Scared, she told him that she  
17 had to leave. But he reached through the window and into her shirt, and twisted and pinched her left  
18 nipple through her bra, resulting in a burning sensation, a practice articulated by another victim not  
19 listed in the indictment, and whose allegations are still being investigated. Humiliated, M.C.G. moved  
20 from Sanger after that interaction.

21 M.C.G. saved the defendant's phone number in her phone as "officer" to this day – and it was  
22 the same number that he used in 2021 to text B.H., the victim listed in Counts Nine and Ten and the  
23 same number he used in 2018 to repeatedly call S.L., the victim listed in Counts Six, Seven, and Eight in  
24 the indictment.

25 When federal authorities told M.C.G that they would be in touch once a decision was made about  
26 whether the defendant would be charged, M.C.G. said that she was just relieved to tell what happened  
27 and to be believed.

1           2.     L.S. (Count Five)

2           The defendant sexually assaulted L.S. in her home during October or November 2017, but he  
3 continued to terrorize her thereafter. FSO and federal authorities only learned about L.S. because her  
4 mother saw on the news that the defendant was arrested and called FSO to report what her daughter  
5 disclosed to her years earlier. L.S.'s mother was an SPD employee herself and saw the defendant from  
6 time to time. She always wanted L.S. to formally report the defendant, but L.S. was terrified of him, and  
7 she did not think anyone would believe her if she reported him. L.S. remained reluctant to speak with  
8 FSO and FBI agents, but she ultimately did so.

9           L.S. met the defendant in the fall 2017 (as it turns out, not long after he first raped M.C.G.),  
10 when she worked the night shift at Fastrip, a convenience store that he frequented while on duty. One of  
11 the customers had been harassing her, so she asked the defendant for assistance. He responded  
12 something to the effect of, "Well since I'm going to help you, you need to do me a favor." L.S.  
13 immediately thought his response was sexual and she refused, telling him that it would be inappropriate  
14 and referenced his wedding band and the fact that he was married. But he told her that he did not mean  
15 anything sexual and instead said that he wanted a home-cooked meal as a show of gratitude. She  
16 thought that was odd, but agreed to cook for him, in exchange for his help.

17           Two nights after the discussion about cooking for him, L.S. brought food to work to give to him.  
18 When she offered it to the defendant, he said he would come by again during a break, but he never did.  
19 Yet around 2:30 a.m., after L.S.'s shift was over and she was in bed, the defendant arrived in uniform at  
20 her apartment. She was surprised because she never told the defendant where she lived. Despite the  
21 hour, she assumed he came to pick up his food. She told him to wait at the door while she went to get  
22 the food, leaving the front door open and the screen door closed. Instead of waiting, the defendant came  
23 inside and unbeknownst to L.S., snuck up behind her in the kitchen.

24           He cornered her against the kitchen counter by pressing his body and police utility belt against  
25 her body, effectively sandwiching her. She froze, but then he attempted to kiss her and she began  
26 struggling to get him off of her. He was stronger than her and would not stop. He ran his hand up her  
27 shorts, touching her bare buttocks. He then put his hand in her tank top, attempting to cup her breasts  
28 and, ultimately, touching the side of her bare breasts. L.S. described it as a struggle where she would try

1 to get him off of her, but he was too aggressive and too strong for her to successfully resist.

2       Attempting to get him to stop, L.S. kept telling him that her daughter was asleep in the other  
3 room. That prompted the defendant to walk away from her to close the door that led into her daughter's  
4 room. When he did so, L.S. rushed to the front door, and when the defendant returned, she forced him  
5 out the door, almost like she was shooing him away. He then left the residence as if nothing had  
6 occurred.

7       L.S. explained that she was particularly terrified because he knew that she had been driving  
8 without a license, that he somehow knew where she lived, and that he knew she was a single mother.  
9 She was afraid that he would keep showing up at her house, take her car, and create problems at her job  
10 at Fastrip. As she succinctly put it, "There's a million things he could do to me as a cop."

11       Her fears were warranted because thereafter, the defendant began a pattern of stalker-like  
12 behavior, during which he taunted her. He constantly showed up at Fastrip while she was working. She  
13 tried to avoid him, but he would nonetheless come up to her register. During one encounter, she was  
14 nervously twirling a rubber band. He told her that if the rubber band hit his eye, he would have every  
15 right to shoot her in the face and kill her because a rubber band is a deadly weapon. There were also  
16 other occasions where he would idle in her parking lot or conduct traffic stops on her for seemingly no  
17 reason, telling her that he could take her to jail "right now."

18       In addition to being terrified of him, L.S. explained that she felt fooled by the defendant because  
19 he was nice and helpful when she first met him, which is ironically why she agreed to cook for him in  
20 the first instance. But as a result of her interactions with the defendant, she no longer feels safe in her  
21 own town. Prior to meeting with FSO and the FBI, as a result of the defendant assaulting her, she had  
22 not called the police, even when she needed help.

23       In addition to disclosing the conduct to her mother about a month after the assault, L.S. also told  
24 her best friend, who wanted to report it on her behalf, but L.S. forbade her to do so. That friend  
25 corroborated L.S.'s disclosure and the friend herself witnessed the defendant show up at L.S.'s complex  
26 three times in one evening.

27       L.S. finally came forward at the encouragement of her mother and her sister-in-law. Her  
28 decision was in large part because she believed there had been other victims, remembering that she

1 thought the defendant was so calm during her assault that it felt like it was practiced.

2           **3.       S.L. (Counts Six, Seven, and Eight)**

3           On February 28, 2018, S.L. was the victim of a domestic violence allegation, for which the  
4 defendant was the responding officer. In the ten days that followed, he used his authority as a police  
5 officer to make her undress under the guise of photographing her injuries, and then he sexually assaulted  
6 her in her home.

7           At the encouragement of her friend, a deputy district attorney in a neighboring county, S.L.  
8 reported the defendant within weeks of his misconduct, and an SPD internal affairs investigation ensued.  
9 Although as a result of that investigation, the defendant was found to have taken gratuitous photos – and  
10 to not have properly preserved those as evidence – the rest of his misconduct was deemed  
11 “unsubstantiated,” simply because the investigator refused to rely on the word of a victim, something  
12 investigators do all the time for every other type of crime – and exactly what jurors are instructed they  
13 are permitted to do when considering whether a defendant’s guilt. Ironically, and arguably in  
14 contravention of his own finding, the internal affairs investigator noted that the defendant had an  
15 alarmingly high rate of phone calls to S.L. and found that they tended to bolster her credibility.  
16 Significantly, after the investigation, SPD supervisors were told to keep an eye on the defendant, even  
17 though the defendant was permitted to remain on patrol at SPD.

18           In addition to reporting the defendant to internal affairs, S.L took contemporaneous notes of the  
19 defendant’s misconduct, and also disclosed to her sister what the defendant was doing to her, both in  
20 conversation and via text message.

21           When the defendant responded to the domestic violence call in February 2018, he had been  
22 familiar with S.L because he had responded to a prior domestic call to S.L.’s home at a prior address.  
23 S.L. did not remember that the defendant had responded to that call until he referenced it in an effort to  
24 remind her that her husband’s goal was to make her look crazy. In that prior incident, S.L.’s husband  
25 tied her to the bed and raped her. Instead of just arresting her husband, the defendant gave the couple an  
26 option: either her husband goes to jail or S.L gets “5150-ed,” a euphemism for California’s involuntarily  
27 hospitalization statute. S.L. chose the latter, essentially martyring herself to save her husband. The  
28 defendant was therefore well aware of S.L.’s vulnerabilities, and he exploited them.

1       The defendant and two female SPD officers responded to the February 2018 report of domestic  
2 violence at S.L.'s residence that forms the basis of the charges in the indictment. The defendant  
3 conducted an interview of S.L. in her bedroom while the female officers interviewed S.L.'s husband in  
4 another room. According to S.L., her husband had assaulted her and, consequently, she had a bruise on  
5 her thigh and scratches on her face and neck.

6       As captured on an audio recording taken during this interaction from his body worn camera, the  
7 defendant advised, contrary to policy, that he would take photographs of S.L.'s injuries, specifically  
8 telling one of the female SPD officers on scene, "They're not too intimate, so I'll take them." He then  
9 took photos of S.L. in her bedroom closet. One photo depicts S.L. with her leggings pulled down  
10 exposing her underwear. The defendant also told her that she had a mark on her neck and, therefore, in  
11 order to photograph the mark, S.L. had to move her shirt down to the point where her breasts were  
12 partially exposed. S.L. did not understand why he would need her to expose that much of her chest for a  
13 neck injury. There were no visible marks or injury to her chest. Nonetheless, she complied because he  
14 was a police officer.

15       Later that night, the defendant showed up at S.L.'s house again with a copy of an emergency  
16 protective order, and he urged her to go to court to make it permanent. She told him that she did not  
17 intend to do that, and as she later explained, she was the sole breadwinner, and she did not want to pay  
18 for her husband to live elsewhere. The defendant then told her that he has become close to several  
19 women who have been in similar situations. He said that if she shows the defendant that she is  
20 "serious," he will give her his cell phone number, so she does not have to call 911. It should be noted  
21 that according to numerous SPD officers, they rarely, if ever, give out their personal cell phone to  
22 civilians. The defendant then hugged S.L., telling her that he would be off for a few days but would  
23 check back in with her.

24       As promised, several days later, on March 5, 2018, the defendant again arrived at S.L.'s  
25 residence. At the time, S.L. had a migraine and directed her daughter to ask the defendant to return  
26 later. The defendant nonetheless insisted on speaking with S.L. He said he needed to investigate and  
27 search the residence to see if S.L.'s husband was there. Contrary to policy, and without any legitimate  
28 law enforcement purpose, the defendant insisted he had to take additional photos of her injuries. S.L.

1 advised him that she did not have any marks on her chest, but he told her it was necessary. This time,  
 2 given the type of shirt she was wearing, S.L. could not lower her shirt far enough for the pictures the  
 3 defendant claimed he need to take. In response, he directed S.L. to remove her shirt, leaving on her bra.  
 4 Because he was a police officer, S.L. complied. He then used a red digital camera that has since been  
 5 seized from the defendant's locker, and appeared to take photographs of S.L.'s face, neck, stomach,  
 6 chest and upper thighs with the camera.<sup>4</sup> As S.L. explained, the defendant's directives seemed  
 7 obligatory and S.L. thought she had to comply, particularly because she did not want to hinder the  
 8 domestic violence investigation. The next day, as corroborated by cell phone records, the defendant  
 9 called S.L. multiple times, but she did not answer.

10       The day after that, on March 7, 2018, the defendant again showed up at S.L.'s house and again  
 11 directed S.L. to her bedroom, where he told her to remove her dress in order to take additional pictures  
 12 of her injuries. Again, the defendant reminded her he was a police officer, as though it was no big deal  
 13 to remove her clothes in front of him, akin to a doctor performing a legitimate medical exam. Again.  
 14 S.L. complied, standing in her bedroom in just her bra and underwear while the defendant appeared to  
 15 photograph S.L.'s face, neck, stomach, chest and upper thighs. There was no legitimate purpose for any  
 16 of the defendant's actions, and as multiple SPD officers explained, (1) officers only take additional  
 17 photographs of injuries if a victim asks them to do so because the injuries have later become visible; (2)  
 18 a male officer does not photograph sensitive areas of a female victim's body; (3) all of these interactions  
 19 should have been captured on body worn camera, and (4) the defendant was well-versed in policies and  
 20 procedures, so any claim that he did not know better does not have merit.

21       Later in the evening of March 7, 2018, the defendant again went to S.L.'s house. S.L. allowed  
 22 him to come over, believing that he was still writing the police report associated with her husband's  
 23 case. This time, the defendant made sexual comments, all in the context of telling her that she deserved  
 24 better than her husband. He suggested that S.L. masturbate, describing in graphic detail how she should  
 25 do so and telling her that her homework was to masturbate. He told her that he likewise would have the  
 26 same homework and would think about her. The entire discussion made S.L. terribly uncomfortable,

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27       <sup>4</sup> The camera is still being forensically examined for evidence of deleted photos. The fact that the  
 28 defendant had a red digital camera in his locker nonetheless corroborates S.L.'s account.

1 and as noted above, as the defendant's behavior was escalating, S.L. was telling her friend, a deputy  
2 district attorney about the defendant. It was that friend who advised S.L. to take contemporaneous notes,  
3 and it was that friend who reported the defendant to SPD, leading to the aforementioned internal affairs  
4 investigation.

5 Prior to leaving S.L.'s house that night on March 7th, the defendant embraced S.L. without her  
6 initiation, lifting her up while doing so. He stated, "Man, I love me a married woman." Upon putting  
7 her down, S.L. attempted to pull away, but he responded, "Who said I was ready to let you go?" S.L.  
8 was disgusted.

9 The following day on March 8, 2018, as corroborated by phone records, the defendant called S.L  
10 at least four times that afternoon and evening, during which he continually told S.L. that he needed to  
11 stop by to take more photographs. "Like an idiot," as she explained, she felt like she had to allow him to  
12 come over because she understood that he was still in the process of writing her husband's domestic  
13 violence report and she feared the defendant would retaliate against her husband if she did not comply.

14 That night, the defendant again talked about masturbating and asked if S.L. had masturbated  
15 since their last discussion. He then went to S.L.'s bedroom, turn on the TV, and played YouTube  
16 instructional videos about how to masturbate. He then told S.L. that her husband had not made her feel  
17 "sexy" and, without asking for consent (and without a warrant), searched S.L.'s dresser drawers in  
18 search of lingerie. He found a red night gown and told S.L. to put it on. Scared of what the defendant  
19 might do if she did not comply, and not knowing how to get out of the situation, particularly without  
20 waking her sleeping children down the hall, S.L. went into the bathroom, got undressed, and put on the  
21 nightgown. Because the nightgown was too small and very revealing, she put on a robe to cover herself.

22 When S.L. emerged from the bathroom, the defendant removed her robe and placed his hands on  
23 her buttocks, and ran his hand down S.L.'s neck and cleavage, all without her consent. All the while, he  
24 made S.L. look at herself in the mirror, commenting about how she looked. She was scared and tried to  
25 leave her bedroom to get away from him, but he grabbed her by the hips and pulled her on to his lap  
26 where she felt his erect penis.

27 At that point, in addition to being scared, S.L. was angry, explaining that with all of the problems  
28 with her husband, she had constantly been treated like she was "crazy" and no one would take her

1 seriously. Now, the defendant was seemingly doing the same thing. S.L. then summoned her courage  
2 and directed him to leave, but he would not do so. Thinking that the defendant was going to rape her if  
3 she did not try to escape, she ran from out a side door of her house and towards the gate of her property.  
4 The defendant chased after, grabbing her ahold of her by her vagina. When S.L. reached the outside  
5 gate, where they were in full view of the neighborhood, after groping her again, the defendant turned  
6 and walked away toward his vehicle, as calmly as he left L.S.'s apartment the night that he attacked her.

7 S.L. has not spoken to the defendant since that final interaction, but he called her twice  
8 thereafter that night and she did not answer. He called a few more times when he was back on duty a  
9 few days later. According to S.L., he then left a formal voicemail, checking to see how she was and  
10 leaving the phone number to the police department for her to reach him.

11       4.       **B.H. (Counts Nine and Ten)**

12       B.H. was sexually assaulted by the defendant on the evening of June 23, 2021, during a  
13 pretextual stop for driving under the influence. She disclosed the assault the next day to a friend who  
14 worked at SPD, who then alerted the police chief.

15       B.H. reluctantly reported the defendant because, as she explained, she has high regard for law  
16 enforcement, as her brother is a police officer and a firefighter, and she knows a lot of SPD officers.  
17 She ultimately did so because she knew that the defendant had a reputation for being inappropriate with  
18 women and, in particular, he has been stalking her friend, K.P., for some time. The first and only time  
19 B.H. had encountered the defendant was two years prior during the summer of 2019. She and K.P. were  
20 walking around K.P.'s neighborhood, and the defendant pulled up and blocked them with his patrol  
21 vehicle. They were generally nice to him, but decided his flirty attitude was creepy. At the time, they  
22 "let it go" because they know most of the officers in Sanger, and they were not concerned about him.

23       B.H. did not have another interaction with the defendant in the two intervening years, but she  
24 knew about him because K.P. often saw him in the context of her job at the Chamber of Commerce. As  
25 K.P. corroborated, the defendant often asked K.P. for hugs, sent her text messages, and generally made  
26 her uncomfortable.

27       Around 9:30 p.m. on June 23, 2021, the defendant, while acting in his capacity as an SPD  
28 officer, approached B.H.'s parked vehicle. Because of his "stalking-like" behavior with K.P., B.H. was

1 uncomfortable when the defendant then asked her to exit her car. Nonetheless, she complied because  
2 she thought that he was investigating her for driving under the influence. She had been drinking alcohol  
3 earlier that night.

4 After B.H. exited her car, the defendant had her walk to his patrol vehicle about a block away, at  
5 which point he asked if she was wearing a bra. B.H. told him that she was not, and he proceeded to  
6 move her shirt in such a way that exposed her breast without her consent. He then asked B.H. if she  
7 wanted to get in the back of his police vehicle with him. B.H. declined, thinking that the request was  
8 sexual in nature.

9 The defendant then inquired as to the whereabouts K.P. B.H. told him that K.P. likewise was  
10 sobering up in her own car. He said he would go look for K.P. As a result, B.H. was torn as to whether  
11 she should follow the defendant to ensure K.P.'s safety or go back to her own car. She chose the latter  
12 and asked the defendant for permission to leave. He granted it, but as B.H. began to walk back to her  
13 vehicle, she could "feel him" following behind her. When they approached a point where they were  
14 somewhat hidden by bushes, he stopped B.H., and turned her around. He then grabbed B.H.'s hand and  
15 forced her to stroke his exposed penis. B.H. retracted her hand in fear and disgust and began walking  
16 away.

17 Immediately thereafter, K.P.'s car pulled up to a nearby stop sign. According to K.P., the  
18 defendant approached, stuck his head in her window, and asked what she was doing and why her shirt  
19 was undone. K.P. was taken aback by his question because she was wearing a shirt that neither had  
20 buttons nor was "undone."

21 B.H., concerned for K.P.'s safety, and despite the defendant telling her to stay where she was,  
22 approached K.P.'s vehicle and stood next to the defendant. In an ill-fated attempt to try to distract him  
23 away from K.P. so that K.P. could drive away, B.H. turned toward him and squeezed her arms together  
24 so that her breasts would appear to press together. But rather than just look at B.H., according to both  
25 K.P. and B.H., the defendant flicked B.H.'s shirt open and sucked on her breast without her consent.

26 Shaking and in tears, B.H. went back to her car, but the defendant followed her. Using her first  
27 name, he demanded that B.H. come over to him and give him her phone number. She complied, though  
28 she gave him a fake phone number. When he asked her to repeat it, she could not remember the fake

1 number and begrudgingly provided her real phone number, written in the defendant's notebook that was  
2 subsequently seized by law enforcement.

3 The defendant then insisted on following B.H. home, which immediately terrified her. She  
4 thought the defendant would pull B.H. over and rape her. Therefore, B.H. told him that she would  
5 remain in the area and park in a parking lot until she was sober. Ultimately, B.H waited until she was  
6 certain the defendant had left the area before driving home.

7 During that wait, the defendant texted B.H. using the telephone number that he used to contact  
8 the aforementioned victims. At the time, B.H. did not know it was the defendant, but figured out that it  
9 was him based on context. They exchanged the following text messages:

10 DEFENDANT: You still there (timestamped 6/23/2021 10:28:01)

11 B.H.: No . . . You can leave now. Please don't do this . . . (Timestamped 6/23/2021 10:29:46)

12 DEFENDANT: I just wanted to make sure you get home ok (Timestamped 6/23/2021 10:30:27)

13 B.H.: I'm OK thanks (Timestamped 6/23/2021 10:30:45)

14 DEFENDANT: Well I apologize if it made you uncomfortable. I thought we were having a good  
15 time. (Timestamped 6/23/2021 10:32:03)

16 DEFENDANT: You have my number if you want to use it. I'll erase yours. (Timestamped  
17 6/23/2021 10:32:53)

18 DEFENDANT: I already left. I'm on another call. (Timestamped 6/23/2021 10:34:27)

19 In the aftermath of the defendant's conduct, B.H. lives in what she calls "irrational" fear of the  
20 defendant. She is constantly worried that she will see him in the Starbucks she frequents, or that he will  
21 be lying in wait for her in the bushes outside of her house. B.H., like all of the defendant's victims, no  
22 longer feels safe to live in her community.

23 **IV. LEGAL ANALYSIS**

24 Based on the foregoing, a grand jury found probable cause that the defendant committed the  
25 crimes charged in the indictment. Counts One, Two, Four, Five, and Eight are all crimes of violence,  
26 and Counts One, Two, Five, and Eight are each punishable up to life in prison, permitting the United  
27 States to seek detention, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1)(A) and (B), respectively. Upon considering  
28 the factors set forth below and pursuant 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g), there is clear and convincing evidence that

1 no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the  
2 community. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f); *United States v. Gebro*, 948 F.2d 1118, 1121 (9th Cir. 1991) (A  
3 judicial determination that a defendant should be detained pending trial on the ground of community  
4 safety must be supported by clear and convincing evidence.) The defendant should therefore be  
5 detained pending trial.

6       **A. Factors Governing Detention**

7           **1. Nature and Circumstances of the Offenses Charged**

8       The nature and circumstances of the offense charged support detention. As set forth above, the  
9 defendant's exploitation of his power and position to render the very community he swore to protect  
10 unsafe illustrates the egregious nature of his conduct. Indeed, because he patrolled the streets, no one  
11 was safe – not the convenience store worker who sold him iced tea, nor the domestic violence victim  
12 who relied on the police to keep her safe, nor the driver whom if he really suspected of driving under the  
13 influence should have been so cited or arrested, rather than being a receptacle for the defendant's  
14 depravity. Additionally, the United States also has evidence that the defendant targeted a teenage girl  
15 whom the defendant knew battled mental health issues and he also targeted a homeless woman who  
16 suffered from drug addiction, as well as another woman who called SPD for help enforcing a custody  
17 order. The defendant's very presence in the community poses a risk to any person and to the community  
18 itself, which is why there is no condition or combination of conditions to reasonably assure otherwise.  
19 He knew how to get away with his crimes for years, be it by choosing victims whom he thought no one  
20 would believe, threatening them into silence, or ensuring there was no physical evidence to corroborate  
21 their accounts.

22       Moreover, considering the nature and circumstances of the offense also requires the Court to  
23 weigh the possible penalty the defendant faces upon conviction. See *United States v. Townsend*, 897  
24 F.2d 989, 995 (9th Cir. 1990). Indeed, the seriousness of the defendant's crime is reflected in the  
25 sentences he faces if convicted. The defendant faces life imprisonment on each of the four charges that  
26 allege the aggravated sexual abuse enhancement and attempted aggravated sexual abuse enhancement,  
27 and his advisory sentence under the United States Sentencing Guidelines for each of those counts is  
28 likewise life in prison. Moreover, for eight of his ten charges – even where the conduct alleged is only a

1 misdemeanor – the Guidelines recognize the gravity of the conduct because they each start with a base  
2 level of 32 and add six levels because the defendant was acting under color of law. The base offense  
3 level for each charge alleging sexual assault is therefore a minimum of 38, which is 235 to 293 months.  
4 That means that the recommended sentence for each of the “non-life” counts is the statutory maximum,  
5 and the counts will likely “stack,” with sentences being imposed consecutively.

6           **2. The Weight of the Evidence Against the Defendant**

7        “The weight of the evidence is the least important factor” when determining whether detention is  
8 appropriate, “and the statute neither requires nor permits a pretrial determination of guilt.” *United States*  
9 *v. Gebro*, 948 F.2d 1118, 1121 (9th Cir. 1991) (internal quotations omitted). Nonetheless, the pattern of  
10 predatory behavior that has emerged favors detention, and the defendant’s guilt is overwhelming. To  
11 that point, the defendant should not be under the misimpression that no one will believe the word of his  
12 victims, and that it is simply his word against theirs. “He said/she said” is a fallacy that ignores the law  
13 and the rules of evidence.

14        In addition to aforementioned evidence and how each victim’s account corroborates the other,  
15 and how their prior consistent statements are likewise admissible to rebut the defense of recent  
16 fabrication, Rule 413 of the Federal Rules of Evidence presumes the admissibility of evidence of other  
17 sexual assaults to be used for any matter “to which it is relevant,” including propensity, when the  
18 defendant is charged with a sexual assault. Fed. R. of Evid. 413. That is to say that even if the United  
19 States does not ultimately seek additionally charges, Rule 413 allows the United States to introduce  
20 evidence of uncharged sexual assaults to prove the defendant’s propensity to commit sexual assault.

21        “Fed. R. Evid. 413. . . was passed to make an exception to Fed. R. Evid. 404(b), which imposed  
22 a blanket prohibition on propensity evidence.” *Doe ex rel. Rudy-Glanzer v. Glanzer*, 232 F.3d 1258,  
23 1268 (9th Cir. 2000) (citing *United States v. LeCompte*, 131 F.3d 767, 769 (8th Cir. 1997)); *United*  
24 *States v. Meacham*, 115 F.3d 1488, 1491 (10th Cir. 1997); *United States v. LeMay*, 260 F.3d 1018, 1026  
25 (9th Cir. 2001) (concluding that there is nothing “fundamentally unfair” about the allowance of  
26 propensity evidence); *United States v. Redlightning*, 624 F.3d 1090, 1120 (9th Cir. 2010) (“Evidence  
27 that tends to show that [a defendant] committed another sexual assault . . . tends to show that [the  
28 defendant] had the propensity to commit another sexual assault.”); *United States v. Enjady*, 134 F.3d

1 1427, 1431 (10th Cir.1998); *United States v. Crow Eagle*, 705 F.3d 325 (8th Cir. 2013); *United States v.*  
 2 *Guardia*, 135 F.3d 1326, 1330 (10th Cir. 1998) (“[P]ropensity evidence has a unique probative value in  
 3 sexual assault trials and that such trials often suffer from a lack of any relevant evidence beyond the  
 4 testimony of the alleged victim and the defendant.”).

5 Likewise, the United States is also aware of evidence that may be admissible under Fed. R. Evid.  
 6 404(b) to further establish the defendant’s pattern of behavior or to rebut the defense that the victims  
 7 came on to him – which is what he claimed to the FSO detectives in the wake of being arrested for his  
 8 conduct toward B.H. Rule 404(b) is considered “an inclusive rule, admitting all evidence of other  
 9 crimes or acts except [contrary to Rule 413] that which tends to prove only criminal disposition.”  
 10 *United States v. Van Metre*, 150 F. 3d 339, 349 (4th Cir. 1998); *accord United States v. Meling*, 47 F.3d  
 11 1546, 1557 (9th Cir. 1995). Taken together, Rules 413 and 404(b) permit the accounts of other women  
 12 about their interactions with the defendant (and which federal authorities are still investigating). Such  
 13 evidence underscores the weight of the evidence, further demonstrating the defendant’s danger to the  
 14 community.

15 For example, S.B. met the defendant in September 2016, not long after he began working for  
 16 SPD at the end of March 2016, when she, too was working at Fastrip, the convenience store that the  
 17 defendant frequented while working in his capacity as an SPD officer. Shortly thereafter, the defendant  
 18 gave S.B. his personal number – the same number that he used to contact his other victims listed in the  
 19 indictment. They developed what she perceived was a friendship, and throughout their friendship, S.B.  
 20 disclosed personal aspects about her life, including details about her marriage and when she was prone  
 21 to self-harm. One evening, on March 17, 2018, when they were both hanging out in the Walmart  
 22 parking lot, S.B. told the defendant about a particularly egregious incident of cutting. He felt her leg  
 23 where her scar was, and then pushed her up against her car, groped her breasts and buttocks, and  
 24 attempted to kiss her, but she moved her head away. After that, she never spoke to him again. When  
 25 she learned of his arrest in June 2021, she called what she thought was an anonymous tip line to report  
 26 him, but it was actually an FSO sergeant’s direct line. Losing her nerve, she hung up rather than leaving  
 27 a message. The next day, the sergeant saw the missed call and called her back, and she agreed to be  
 28 interviewed.

1       According to S.B., the defendant also texted her sexually “inappropriate” texts. On one  
2 occasion, the defendant took S.B.’s mobile phone and began scrolling through her photos, then located a  
3 picture displaying S.B. topless and sent it to his own phone, all without consent. Significantly, the  
4 defendant was not acting in his capacity as a police officer when he sexually assaulted S.B.,  
5 undercutting any argument by the defendant that he is no longer a threat the community because he is  
6 not employed by SPD. Instead, this highlights the weight of the evidence against him.

7                   **3. The History and Characteristics of the Defendant**

8       The United States expects that the defendant will argue for release because he has no criminal  
9 history and is no longer employed as a law enforcement officer. As demonstrated by the charges in the  
10 indictment and the aforementioned sexual assault of S.B., neither argument is persuasive. First,  
11 although the defendant’s conduct came to light in 2021, he was not caught the first time he committed  
12 sexual assault. He had been violating the constitutional rights of the women in Sanger for the five years  
13 that he worked there, engaging in a pattern of conduct that ranged from gratuitous searches and  
14 photographs to forcible rape. Both the federal and local authorities did not fully appreciate the breadth  
15 and depth of his criminal conduct until the investigation into B.H.’s allegations were well underway.  
16 The defendant’s success in evading detection is not a reason to let him out. If anything, it is a reason to  
17 detain him.

18       If this Court were to determine the defendant’s law-abidingness based solely on past convictions,  
19 then he of course appears to be law-abiding, aside from traffic tickets and failures to appear at those  
20 hearings. But as the facts and evidence bear out, he is anything but law-abiding. In short, it appears that  
21 he is a serial rapist who, according to virtually every female with whom the defendant made contact and  
22 whom the authorities have since interviewed, he either somewhat scared them or downright terrified  
23 them – and he often sexually assaulted them or otherwise engaged in some form of sexual misconduct.

24       To that end, in addition to the aforementioned allegations, the United States is also investigating  
25 allegations of other women who alleged the defendant forced them to perform oral sex, vaginally raped  
26 them, groped their breasts, sent inappropriate texts, or simply scared them when he responded to their  
27 homes when they needed help. One woman said that the defendant made the hair on the back of her  
28 neck stand up, and she was grateful her eight-year old daughter was in the next room when the

1 defendant came to her house. Another domestic violence victim relayed that the defendant made  
2 inappropriate comments about her “sexy” appearance and told her that he could “understand why [she]  
3 drove her husband crazy.”

4 And, the defendant’s inappropriate behavior did not go unnoticed by his SPD colleagues. His  
5 female colleagues not only were on the receiving end of inappropriate comments, but they witnessed the  
6 defendant engage in gratuitous and inappropriate searches of female arrestees, all of which are the  
7 subject of additional investigation. His male colleagues heard him make inappropriate comments, and  
8 one colleague went so far as to say that he suspected the defendant was a predator.

9 **4. The Nature and Seriousness of the Danger to Any Person or the Community**

10 One of the final factors for this Court to consider is the nature and seriousness of the danger to  
11 any person or the community. The victims feared that the defendant would terrorize them because he in  
12 fact did. Often, once a perpetrator is arrested or facing charges, authorities can reasonably assure a  
13 crime victim that she is safe from her attacker, perhaps because she is living in another state or because  
14 he has no way to access where she is. Indeed, the United States will make every effort to ensure the  
15 safety of these victims and would like to presume that the defendant is smart enough not to risk witness  
16 tampering charges. Nonetheless, his pool of victims has been wide and varied, allegedly even targeting  
17 women after consensual relationships soured.

18 While the defendant may argue he would not continue such behavior now that he has been  
19 caught, that did not prove to be true after S.L. reported him to SPD. If anything, he appears to have been  
20 emboldened by his lack of accountability. After FSO arrested him for his sexual assault of B.H., the  
21 defendant gave a post-Miranda statement riddled with inconsistencies and falsehoods, perhaps in hopes  
22 of talking himself out of local state charges. Thereafter, the state authorities deferred to federal  
23 authorities, but to the defendant, his efforts appear successful, and this was just another instance where  
24 skirted responsibility. There is therefore no indication that the defendant has been deterred. Because of  
25 that, the only way to assure community safety is detention.

26 **B. The Defendant’s Risk of Flight**

27 A judicial determination that a defendant is a risk of flight pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142 (f)(2)(A),  
28 must be supported by a preponderance of the evidence. *United States v. Motamedi*, 767 F.2d 1403, 1406

1 (9th Cir. 1985). While the crux of the United States' argument for detention is that the defendant is a  
2 danger to the community, it is worth noting that the gravity of his charges and the penalties that the  
3 defendant faces create a flight risk. Any former law enforcement officer who faces the prospect of life  
4 in prison for multiple sexual assaults is a flight risk, and it does not inure in his favor that the defendant  
5 has failed to appear in other judicial proceedings, albeit for traffic offenses.

6 The argument that the defendant turned himself in on the current charges only goes so far  
7 because there is no way he could have known the gravity of the charges he was about to face, the  
8 evidence against him, and the number of victims who have come forward. Indeed, the landscape has  
9 changed for him not only from when FSO arrested him in June 2021, but from when he arrived at the  
10 federal courthouse just days ago. That in and of itself establishes by a preponderance of the evidence  
11 that the defendant is a flight risk.

12                         **V.           CONCLUSION**

13         Based on the nature of the charges contained in the indictment, the weight of the proffered  
14 evidence against the defendant, and the defendant's danger to the community, it is evident that at this  
15 stage in the proceedings no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the  
16 appearance of defendant at trial and the safety of the community.

17         Under the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g), the United States has demonstrated by clear  
18 and convincing evidence that the defendant should be detained pending trial on the ground of  
19 community safety. Moreover, there is a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant is a flight risk  
20 given the significant amount of prison time he faces if convicted.

21         For the foregoing reasons, the United States requests that the Court order the pre-trial detention  
22 of the defendant.

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Dated: August 8, 2022

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